

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Solo Art Exhibition
Painter: Zahura Sultana Hossain
Title: Contemplation
Venue: Bay's Galleria, Radius Centre, Gulshan-2
Date: December 11-January 27
Time: 10am-8pm

Mudhu Mela 2010
Title: 186th Birth Anniversary of Madhushudan Dutt
Organiser: District Administration, Jessor & Banglalink
Venue: Sagordari, Jessor
Date: January 22-28
Time: 3:30pm onwards

3rd Int'l Children's Film Festival
Organiser: Children's Film Society Bangladesh
Venue: Public Library premises (the main venue)
Date: January 23-29
Time: 11am onwards

Musical Soiree
Title: Praner Khela
Artists: Farida Parveen and Gazi Abdul Hakim
Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi
Date: January 28
Time: 7:30pm

Shah Abdul Karim under the spotlight

Folk Music Festival at Shilpakala



Folk singers perform at the programme.



PHOTO: MUMIT

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On the first day (January 25) of the ongoing weeklong folk festival at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), a discussion on 'Baul Samrat' Shah Abdul Karim and renditions of his songs were held. Department of Music and Dance, BSA has arranged the programme, which is being held at the Academy premises. The festival features a discussion on the seven mystic bards and their songs. State Minister for Cultural Affairs Advocate Pramod Mankin formally inaugurated the festival as the chief guest. Director General of BSA Kamal Lohani presided over the programme. Director of Music and Dance Department Mahmud Selim was also present on the occasion. Sylhet-based writer-journalist Suman Kumar Dash delivered a lecture on Shah Abdul Karim. Dash prepared his paper "Shah Abdul Karim: Path O Mulyayan" based on several books written by the mystic bard and Dash himself. The philosophies of Karim's life in

accordance with 'Baul Tatwa' were elaborated through his songs were the decisive points of Dash's paper. According to the young writer's paper, "To better understand Karim's songs and his philosophy we have to embrace secularism, as Karim was a secular person and he practiced it throughout his life. His songs are extension of that." "Abdul Karim was not only a mystic bard, he was also a politically aware individual and took part in almost every progressive movement," said Dash. The discussion and inaugural programme were followed by renditions of Karim's songs. A group rendition of his popular number "Agey Ki Shunder Din Kataitam" by child artistes kicked off the programme. Baul singers Abdur Rahman and Basiruddin, from Karim's area Sunamganj, also rendered his songs at the programme. Rahman rendered four songs including "Mon Mojaley Orey Baula Gaan", "Bondey Maya Lagaichhey" and "Gari CholeyNa". Basiuddin's performance included "Kon Mestori

Nau Banailo". Throughout the programme, enlisted singers of BSA rendered a wide range of folk songs, composed by Lalon, Bijoy Sarkar, Radha Raman Dutta and others. Considering the first day's programme was dedicated to Shah Abdul Karim, it would have been appropriate if the musical performances only featured Karim's songs. The authorities' decision to feature a blend of folk songs everyday perhaps undermines the highlighted bard/composer of the day. Among others, Rupak Chowdhury, Anima Mukti Gomez, Mina Barua, Nurul Islam and Kangelini Sufia rendered songs at the programme. The programme also highlighted folk dance. Dancers from Nrityadhara, Nrityalok and Abhibyakti performed at the programme. Today's programme will feature a discussion on Bijoy Sarkar and renditions of his songs and other folk genres. Simon Zakaria will give a lecture on Bijoy Sarkar.

Portrait of a survivor

Premiere of "Doriya Parer Dauloti"



Poppy in a scene from the film.

A CORRESPONDENT

"Doriya Parer Dauloti", the last film directed by Abdullah Al Mamun, is the story of a dirt-poor woman who struggles against all odds. Douloti, played by Poppy, has no one in this world except Ukil Dada. Other than him she only has a few people whom she feels attached to. However Douloti is not a girl who gives up easily. She keeps a da (a machete) to defend herself against the beasts in human form around her. "Doriya Parer Dauloti" is written by Kamaluddin Ahmed and is a production of ATN Bangla. The late Abdullah Al Mamun apparently considered it to be one of his greatest works. Though slated for release in 2008, after a long wait the film was finally premiered on January 24 this year. Poppy, who played the central role, gave the opening speech at the premiere, saying that she was proud to be a part of this film. Theatre personality Ramendu Majumder and Dr. Mahfuzur Rahman, chairman ATN Bangla also spoke prior to the premiere. The story begins with Douloti in rustic surroundings. She is portrayed to be a carefree girl but at the same time she is strong willed. The villagers know her well for such qualities. The film homes in on the striving of a single woman in a patriarchal society. The man she loves is killed by miscreants and she makes it her mission to seek revenge. Ferdousi Majumder and Abdullah Al Mamun played other central roles in the film. The cast also includes Manna, Moushumi and Anjali.

Civilian honours for Rekha, Aamir

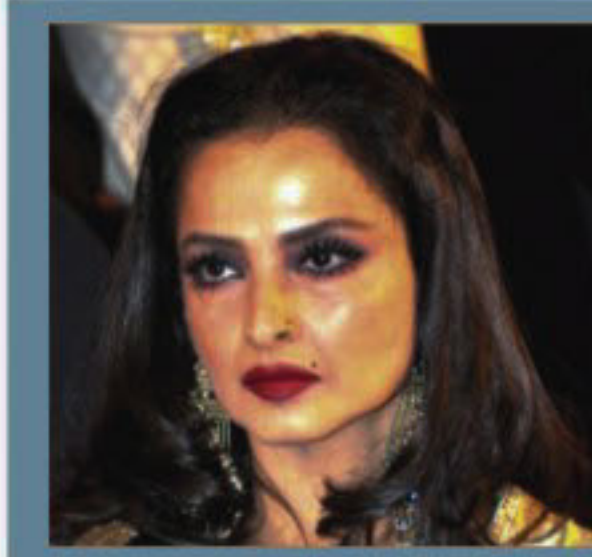
PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Bollywood star Aamir Khan and celebrated Oscar-winning composer A.R. Rahman are among a host of artistes selected for India's third highest civilian award Padma Bhushan while screen diva Rekha and actor Saif Ali Khan have been selected for the fourth highest honour Padma Shri this year. Aamir, 44, whose latest film "3 Idiots" was an unprecedented box office hit, grossing over Rs 375 crore worldwide, had in the past received the Padma Shri. Reacting to being chosen for the third highest civilian honour by the Indian govern-

ment, Aamir, who is now attending the Sundance Film Festival in the United States, said, "It is wonderful to get such an award." "The first thing that comes to mind is my mother's smiling face. It has been a wonderful day for me. My film 'Peepli Live' got a good response at the Sundance Festival and then I got this news. I wish I was back home. "I thank God for these happy moments and my well wishers and fans for their affection and support," said Aamir. Allah Rakha Rahman, who shone at the Oscars last year with his double golden statuette win, seems to be on an award winning spree post the success of Danny Boyle-directed "Slumdog Millionaire".

In 2008, Rahman scored the music of the rags-to-riches drama and bagged two Oscars for the film. Apart from the Oscars, Rahman had also been

Rekha, 55, has been selected for the Padma Shri after four decades in the Indian film industry. Daughter of late Tamil cinema star Gemini Ganesan, she shot into



Rekha awarded with the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) Award, four National Film Awards and 13 Filmfare Awards.



Aamir Khan fame overnight with her debut film and went on to become India's screen siren. Rekha has acted in over 150 films and maintained versatility in films like "Umrao Jaan",

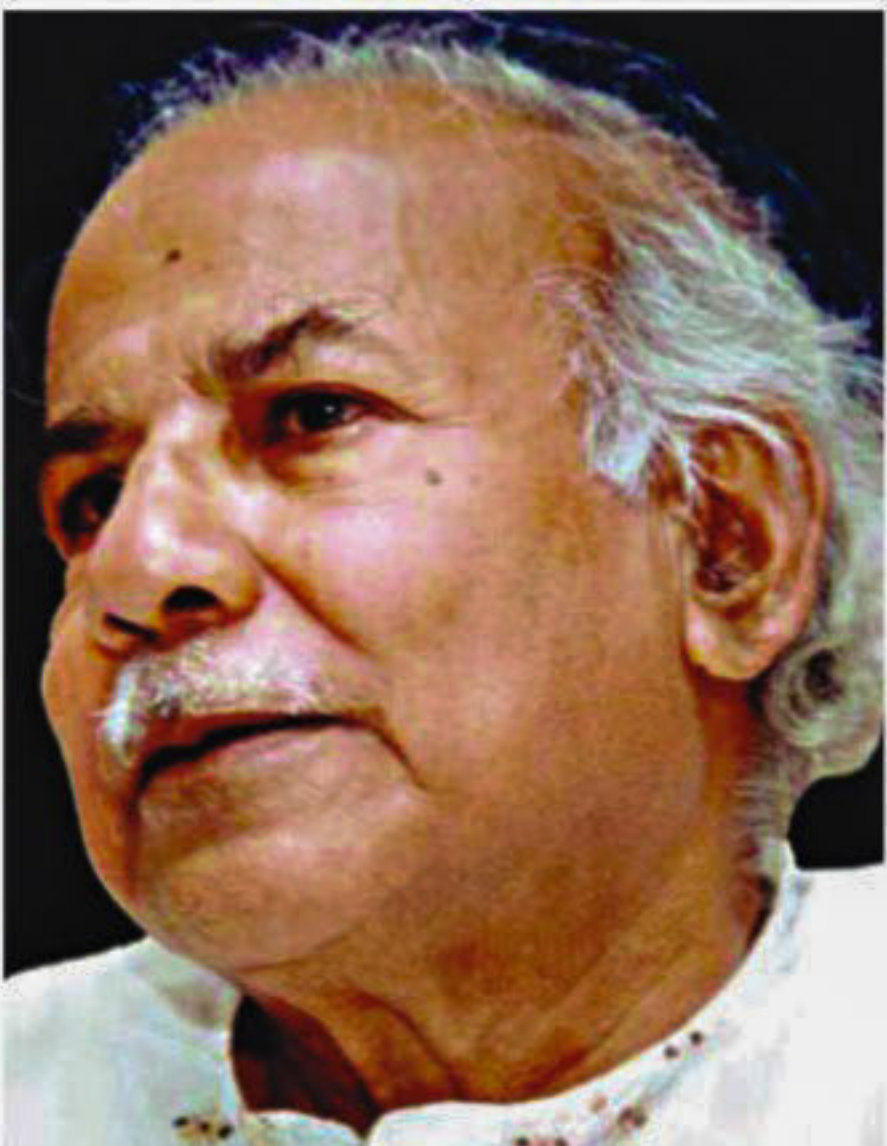
"Do Anjaane", "Ghar", "Muqaddar Ka Sikander", "Khubsoorat", "Silsila", "Utsav", "Khoon Bhari Maang", "Ijaazat" and "Zubeidaa". Saif Ali Khan has been honoured with the Padma Shri. He earned fame after the success of "Dil Chahta Hai" in 2001 and won a National Award for his performance in "Hum Tum". Saif said he felt very proud to be chosen for the Padma Shri and would like to thank his family members and loved ones who have supported him in the film industry. Also among the Padma Shri award winners is photographer Nemai Ghosh who had done camera work for master director Satyajit Ray.

Chhayanaaut's homage to Waheedul Haque

Memorial programme today

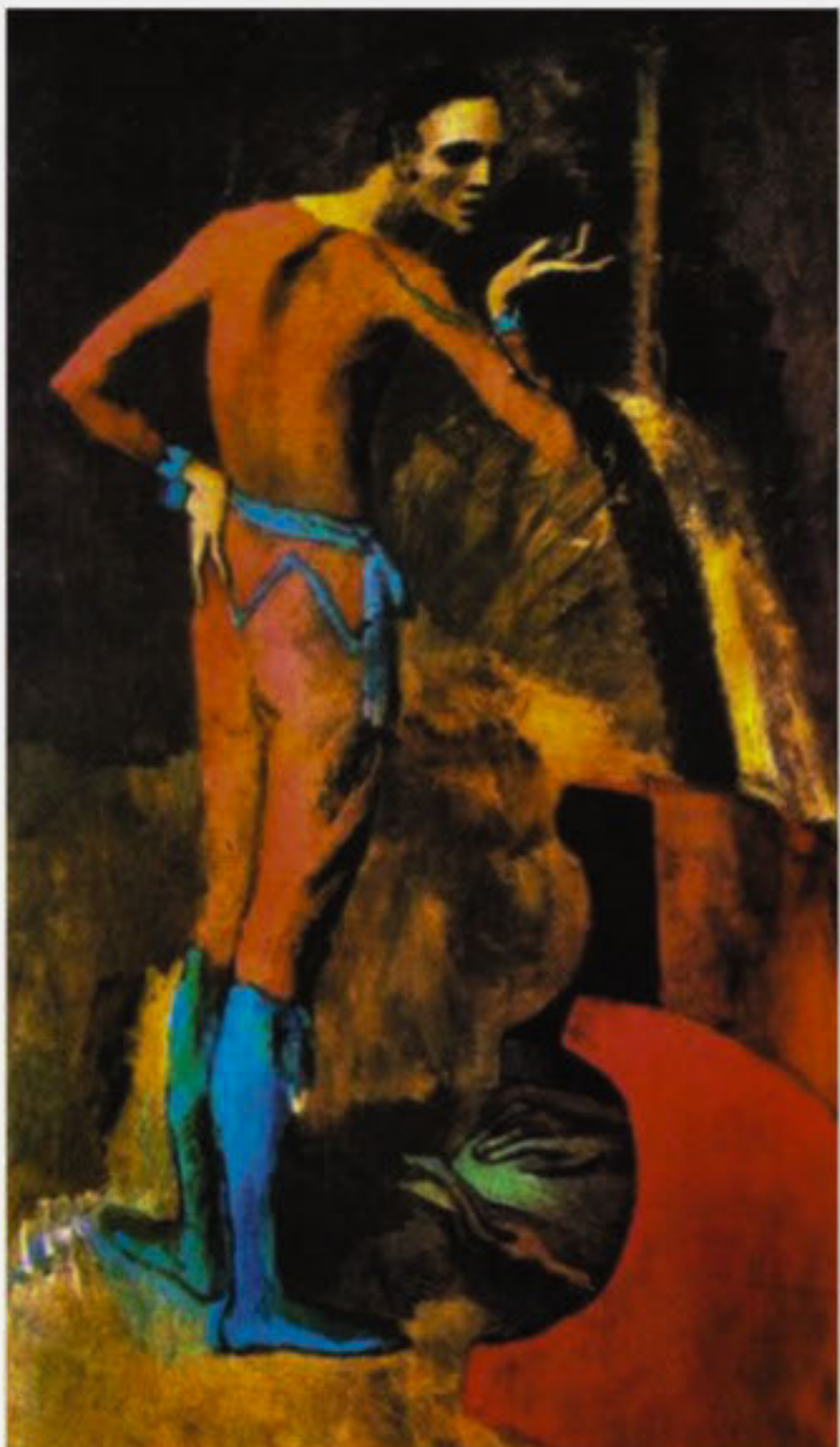
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today marks the third death anniversary of cultural personality and organiser-journalist Waheedul Haque. To mark the day, Chhayanaaut will arrange a special programme today at it Chhayanaaut Shanskriti Bhaban. The programme will start early in the morning. Members of Chhayanaaut will render songs at the hour-long programme, due to start at 7am. In the evening another programme will be held at the main auditorium. The programme will have a memorial lecture, reminiscence and renditions of songs. Dr. Karunamaya Goswami will give the memorial lecture. Waheedul Haque was born on March 16, 1933 at Bhawal Mohonhariya village in Keraniganj, Dhaka. He was a major organiser of the Tagore birth centennial celebration in 1961. The same year he founded Chhayanaut, now one of the leading cultural organisations in Bangladesh. He was also a founder member of other renowned cultural organisations including Rabindra



Waheedul Haque Sangeet Sammelan Parishad, Kanthosheelan, Anandadhoni and more. Waheedul Haque passed away on January 27, 2007.

Visitor tears Picasso's "The Actor"



"The Actor"

A visitor to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York lost her balance and fell into a Pablo Picasso painting, "The Actor," tearing the canvas. Art restorers explain how it might be repaired. Art restorers at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York will soon begin repairs to a prominent Pablo Picasso painting damaged by a visitor last week in an unusual accident. A visitor attending a class at the museum last Friday lost her balance and fell into the canvas, creating a 6-inch tear in the lower right hand corner of "The Actor," a more than 6-foot tall painting depicting a pink-hued acrobat. The painting was immediately taken to the Met's paintings conservation department, where masterpieces are brought for cleaning,

restoration, and in rare cases, repair, the museum said in a statement. Some reports put the painting's value at \$130 million. The 1904-1905 painting from Picasso's so-called rose period is expected to be repaired in time for the museum's upcoming exhibition, "Picasso in The Metropolitan Museum of Art," featuring 250 of the artist's works. While there is no right way to repair a painting -- each piece demands a different approach -- some principles are paramount in the fine art of restoration, experts say. "The first principle of conservation is to minimize intervention," says James Hamm, interim director of the Art Conservation Department at Buffalo State University. "If it ain't broke, don't fix it. We do as little as possible because the more we get our hands in it, the more chance for wear and tear. The art is supposed to live longer than us." Because Picasso's paint tends to be applied in thick strokes, the paint is likely to have suffered extensive flaking. In such a case, a restorer would use a pH-neutral, polyvinyl acetate adhesive to "glue" the paint back onto the canvas and prevent it from flaking off completely. In some cases, experts will try to repair the tear using a technique called re-weaving, in which the frayed threads of the ripped canvas are painstakingly woven together. In extreme cases, the frayed yarns of the canvas would be clipped and a stiff linen patch applied to the back of the canvas to provide support and adhere the torn ends together. The last step, Hamm says, is touching up the front of the painting where paint is missing. Restorers usually use a resin-based paint to mimic an oil paint's texture and shine. If the painting was varnished, conservators will apply a varnish after the paint has dried. The job may take days or months, depending on the damage. The Met will probably use its own in-house conservators, but if they use independent experts, the job would likely be billed at around \$100 per hour, say experts. Source: Internet



PHOTO: STAR

Charonkobi Bijoy-Moslem Foundation, Dhaka arranged a reception for Suraiya Shakila Shukla (2- L), on January 25 at the Liberation War Museum. Shukla is one of the top seven contestants of the recent "Channel i Shera Kontho 2009". She is seen with guests at the programme.